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SNOW SURVEYS AND IRRIGATION WATER FORECASTS

FOR OREGON

AS OF

MARCH 1, 1940

* * *

Issued March 9, 1940

by

Division of Irrigation, Soil Conservation Service
United States Department of Agriculture
and
Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station, Medford Branch
Cooperating

* * * * *

Data included in this report were obtained by
the agencies listed above, in cooperation with the
Oregon State Engineer, U. S. Forest Service, National
Park Service and other Federal, State and local organ-
izations. 1/

* * *

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Washington, D. C.

1/ The snow measurements are made principally by field personnel of the following organizations:

STATE

Idaho Cooperative Snow Surveys
Nevada Cooperative Snow Surveys
Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station
Oregon State Engineer and corps of State Watermasters
Oregon State Highway Engineers

FEDERAL

Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Soil Conservation Service
Weather Bureau
Department of Interior
Biological Survey
Bureau of Reclamation
Geological Survey
Indian Service
National Park Service

PUBLIC UTILITIES

Eastern Oregon Light and Power Company
Portland General Electric Company
The California Oregon Power Company

MUNICIPALITIES

City of Corvallis
City of LaGrande
City of The Dalles

MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS

Central Oregon Irrigation District
Deschutes County Municipal Improvement District
Grants Pass Irrigation District
Lakeview Water Users' Association
Medford and Rogue River Irrigation Districts
Ochoco Irrigation District
Warmsprings Irrigation District

2/ Water content determined by melting a measured sample.
(The California Oregon Power Company's station.)

3/ N. R. = No report.

STATUS OF VALLEY PRECIPITATION AS OF OCTOBER 1 TO DATE

Month		Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Period
Section		P	D	P	D	P	D
S. E.		.69	-0.03	.11	-0.78	1.30	+0.26
S. C.		1.14	+0.14	.05	-1.65	4.23	+2.48
N. C.		.43	-0.37	.07	-1.48	2.25	+0.75
Col. Riv.		.38	-0.58	.04	-1.76	1.90	+0.30
Wal. Mts.		2.09	+0.84	.09	-1.88	2.13	+0.6
Blue Mts.		1.11	-0.38	.12	-1.93	2.16	+0.18
Southern		2.28	+0.43	.15	-3.74	7.17	+3.44
Willamette		3.98	+0.10	1.44	-6.55	10.26	+2.30
Area		1.51	+0.02	0.26	-2.47	3.92	+1.25
						2.5	-0.2
						4.5	+2.2
						12.67	+0.70

P - Inches precipitation.

D - Inches departure from normal.

S.E. - Southeastern Oregon range lands, Harney and Malheur Counties.
 S.C. - Southcentral Oregon range lands, Lake County and Klamath County, except the Cascade Mountains.
 N. C. - Northcentral Oregon Wheat and range lands, Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, Wheeler and part of Grant Counties.

Col. Riv. - Columbia River area, wheat and range lands, Gilliam, Morrow, Sherman, Wasco and part of Umatilla Counties.

Wal. Mts. - Wallowa Mountain area, forest and range lands, Wallowa and part of Baker County.
 Blue Mts. - The Blue Mountain forest and range area, Union and parts of Baker, Grant and Umatilla Counties.

Southern - Southern Oregon irrigated section, Jackson and Josephine Counties.

Willamette - Parts of Polk, Benton, Yamhill, Washington, Lane and all of Linn, Marion, Clackamas and Multnomah Counties.

Note: Data for the last two months shown above are preliminary only, as they are based on a few stations only. Data for earlier months have been corrected to include all the stations in climatological data for the area.

STATUS OF RESERVOIR STORAGE AS OF MARCH FIRST

In the following tabulation, water storage in acre feet in some selected Oregon reservoirs as of about March 1, 1940 is compared with storage as of February 1, 1940, as well as with storage as of approximately March 1 of 1939, 1938 and 1937.

Storage Reservoir	Stream Basin	Capacity Acre Ft. ^c	Acre Feet in Storage		
			About 3-1-40	About 2-1-40	About 3-1-39
Agency Valley	Malheur	60,000	N.R.	41,290	44,120
Antelope	Owyhee	33,434	Empty	3,900	27,670
Clear Lake	Lost River	440,240 ^b	241,480 ^b	230,160 ^b	14,000
Crane Prairie	Deschutes	55,220 ^c	37,000 ^a	29,210	120,160 ^b
Crescent Lake	Deschutes	80,000	31,480	28,900	40,235
Drew Creek	Goose Lake	62,500	N.R.	17,850	33,680
Emigrant Gap	Rogue	8,200	Full	5,803	33,390
Fish Lake	Rogue	7,720	4,430	3,959	42,460
Four Mile Lake	Klamath ^d	14,000	7,826	7,484	42,500
Gerber	Klamath ^d	94,000	59,220 ^b	36,370 ^b	42,500
Hyatt Prairie	Klamath ^d	16,000	4,400	2,885	42,500
McKay	Umatilla	75,000	32,840	15,120	42,500
Ochoco	Crooked	47,500	4,060	3,740	42,500
Owyhee	Owyhee	715,000	464,170	392,760	42,500
Thief Valley	Powder	17,400	11,912	5,600	42,500
Upper Klamath Lake	Klamath	524,800 ^b	383,500 ^b	265,800 ^b	42,500
Wallowa Lake	Wallowa	40,920	11,710	10,930	42,500
Warm Springs	Malheur	170,000	85,500	74,700	42,500
Willow Creek	Malheur	26,000	600 ^e	600 ^e	4,000 ^a
					750
					Dry

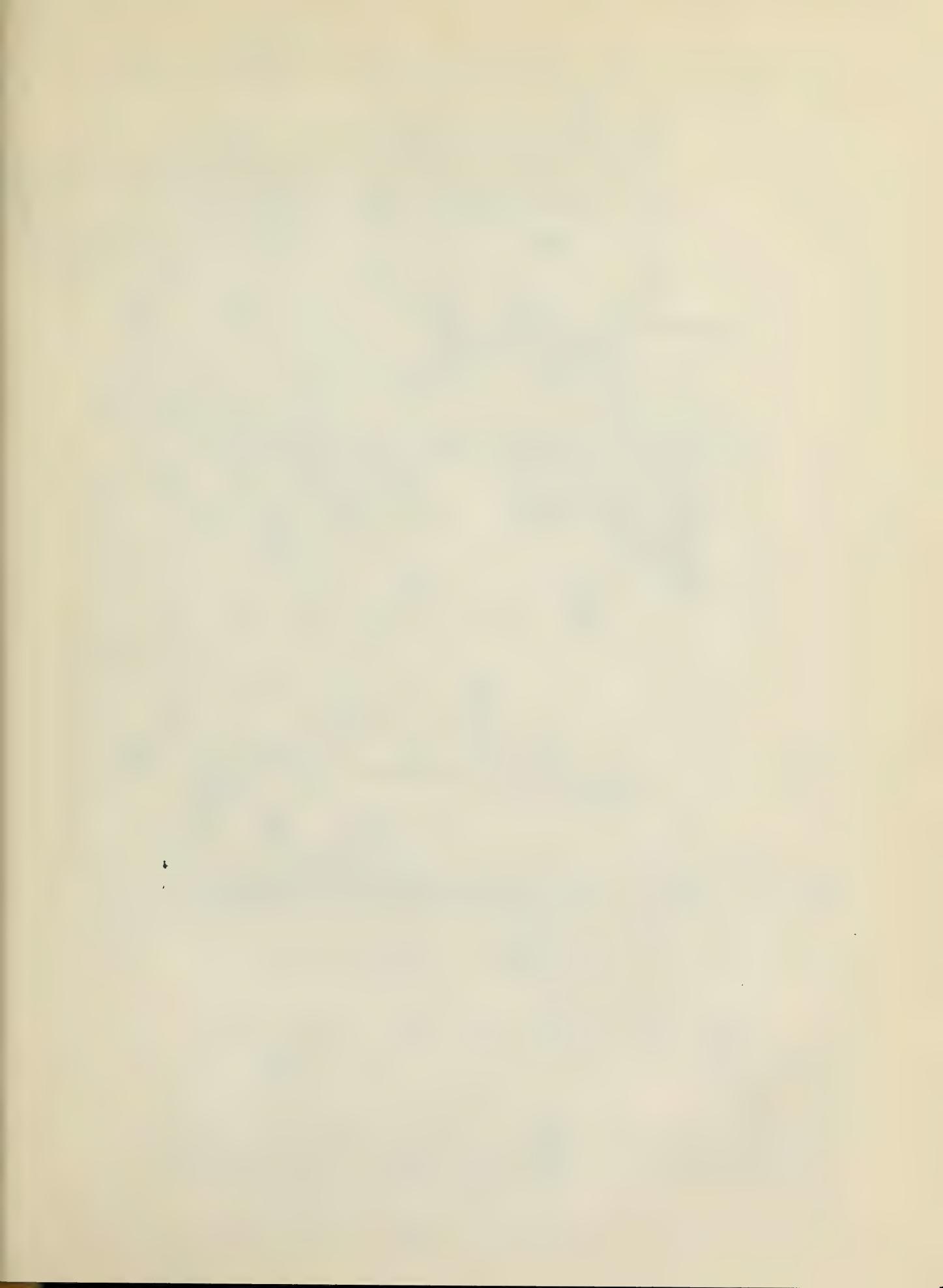
a - Estimated.

b - Available for use.

c - 40,500 by agreement.

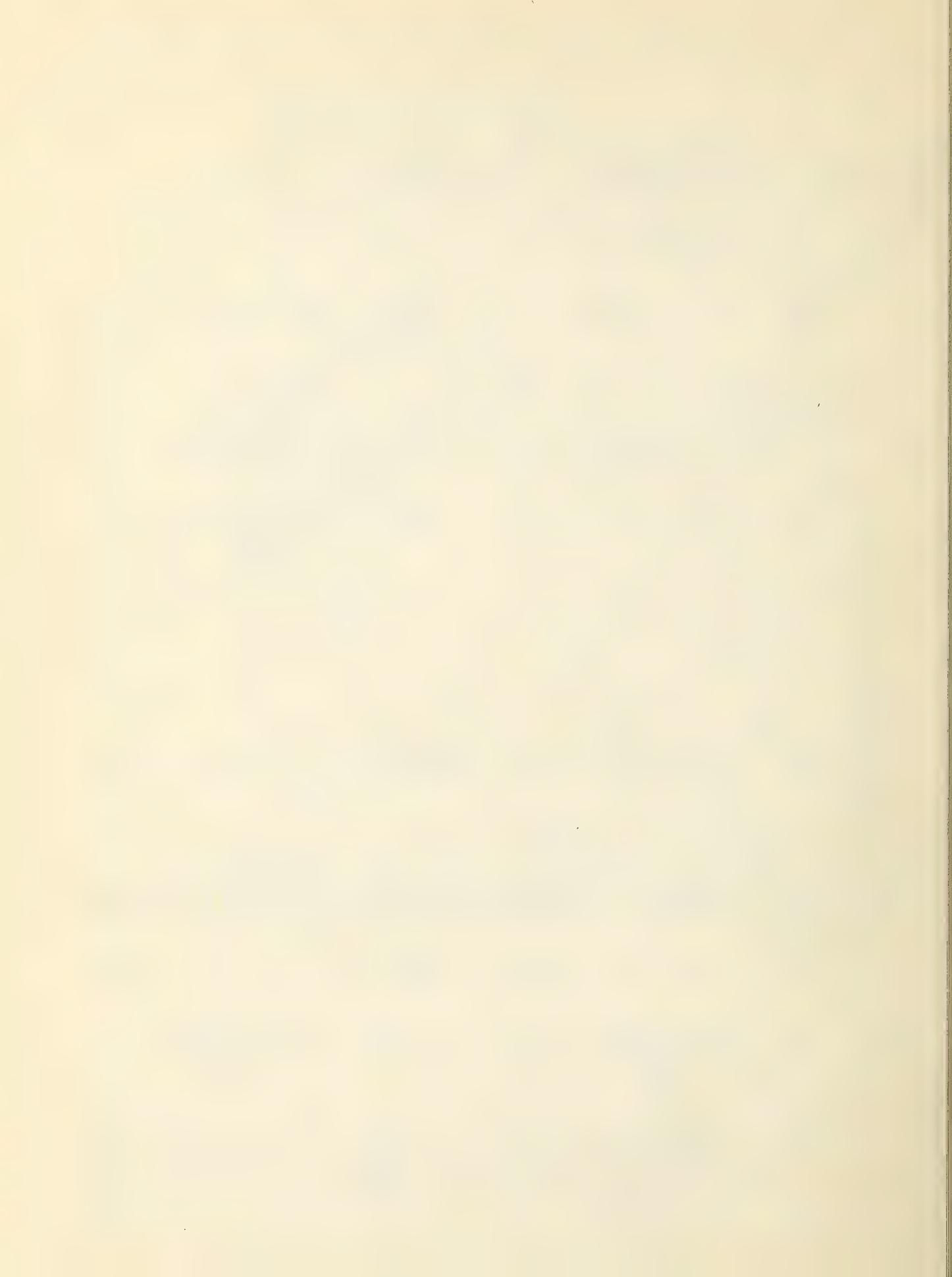
d - By ditch to Rogue River side.

e - Approximate.



INDEX TO SNOW COURSES

Number	Name	Number	Name
	UPPER COLUMBIA DRAINAGE		LOWER COLUMBIA DRAINAGE
	Lower Snake in Oregon		WALLA WALLA RIVER
	OWTHES RIVER		
Nev. 1	Big Bend	6400	212
Nev. 2	Buckskin, Lower	6600	Tollgate
Nev. 3	Buckskin, Upper	8200	UMATILLA RIVER
Nev. 92	Fish Creek	7900	
Nev. 5	Fry Canyon	6800	222
Nev. 6	Gold Creek, Ranger Sta.	6600	Emigrant Springs
Nev. 7	Granite Peak	8600	5030
Nev. 8	Jack Creek, Lower	7800	Lucky Strike
Nev. 9	Jack Creek, Upper	7800	Meacham
Nev. 10	Martin Creek	7000	222
Nev. 11	Deer Flat	7000	Tollgate
Ida. 12	Silver City	6400	242
Ida. 13	South Mountain	6900	Arbuckle Mountain
Nev. 15	Taylor Canyon	5100	JOHN DAY RIVER
		5200	
	MALHEUR RIVER	242	
133	Blue Mountain Spring	5900	Arbuckle Mountain
137	Crane Prairie	5375	Beech Creek
136	Lake Creek	5120	Summit
134	Rock Spring	5100	Blue Mountain
135	Stinking Water	4800	Spring
	BURNT RIVER	948	Divide
141	Blue Mountain Summit	598	Spring
156	Dooly Mountain	5430	Olive Lake
142	Tipion	5100	Gold Center
		326	Gold Center
	POWDER RIVER	321	Starr Ridge
155	Anthony Lake	7225	DESCHUTES RIVER
154	Bourne	5800	
156	Dooly Mountain	5430	Caldwell Ranch
1518	Filberton Meadow	5430	Cascade Summit
249	Gold Center	5400	Charlton Lake
184	Summit Spring	6000	Clear Lake
185	Taylor Green	5740	Crescent Lake
	FINE CREEK	342	Lorr
	Schneider Meadow	5400	Horn Pass
	GRANDE RONDE RIVER	331	Marks Creek
183	Aneroid Lake	7480	4244
155	Anthony Lake	7225	New Dutchman
188	Beaver Meadow	5340	Flat
187	Camp Warren	5970	Otocoia Meadow
186	Moss Spring	5860	Tamarack
248	Schoolmeadow	4775	Three Weeks Meadow
184	Summit Springs	6000	HOOD RIVER
185	Taylor Green	5970	Brooke Meadow
212	Tollgate	5400	
		431	
			SANDY RIVER
			Clear Lake
			Phlox Point - Mt. Hood
			Still Creek
			CLACKAMAS RIVER
			Clackamas Lake
			Peavine Ridge
			WILLAMETTE RIVER
			Cascade Summit
			Champlain
			Chariton Lake
			327
			351
			Horn Pass
			McKenzie
			521
			541
			Mary's Peak
			5212



COMPARISON OF SNOW COVER AS OF MARCH FIRST
WITH THAT OF PREVIOUS YEARS

Generally heavy storms during February increased the snow cover at higher elevations very materially over the amounts reported for Oregon as of February 1, 1940. For elevations above 5,000 feet, of the 42 snow courses reporting March 1, 1940, 29 were measured last month, 38 were measured about March 1, 1939, 31 were measured about March 1, 1938 and 24 were measured about March 1, 1937. Comparison of records on these courses for the approximate dates mentioned follows:

Snow cover (water content) now present above 5,000 feet:

As percent of that present one month ago	-----	483
As percent of that present one year ago	-----	83
As percent of that present two years ago	-----	91
As percent of that present three years ago	-----	76

For elevations from 3,000 to 5,000 feet, of the 29 courses and Copco water stations reporting about March 1, 1940, 29 were measured last month, 29 were measured about March 1, 1939, 24 were measured about March 1, 1938 and 17 were measured about March 1, 1937. Comparison of records on these courses for the approximate dates mentioned follows:

Snow cover (water content) now present from 3,000 to 5,000 feet:

As percent of that present one month ago	-----	245
As percent of that present one year ago	-----	36
As percent of that present two years ago	-----	47
As percent of that present three years ago	-----	18

Snow water content on 83 percent of all courses at all elevations is less than at this time last year and, with 16 exceptions out of 96 comparisons, is substantially less than on about March 1 of either 1938 or 1937.

The greatest increase in snow cover since last month at elevations above 5,000 feet occurred in the Malheur, Burnt and Power River basins. Snow cover on many stream basins and especially below the 5,000 foot level, remains deficient and heavier than normal snowfall will be required during March if late summer stream flow in these basins is to even equal that of last year.

Soil of the watersheds, without important exception, is unfrozen and in all locations is reported as wet to very wet. Frost generally went out of the ground by late February.

Final seasonal snow measurements will be made on all Oregon snow courses during the closing days of March and more definite water supply forecasts will be issued early in April.

1. *W. E. B. DuBois* (1868-1963) was a prominent African American historian, sociologist, and civil rights activist. He was a key figure in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and helped found the Pan-African Congress. His work on the "Talented Tenth" and the "Great Migration" helped shape modern African American thought.

2. The "Talented Tenth" refers to a group of African Americans who were highly educated and successful in the early 20th century. They were seen as a bridge between the rural South and the urban North, and were instrumental in the development of African American culture and politics.

3. The "Great Migration" refers to the mass movement of African Americans from the rural South to the urban North between 1910 and 1940. It was driven by economic opportunity, political repression, and social discrimination. The migration had a profound impact on African American culture, politics, and society.

4. The "Black Belt" refers to a region of the United States, primarily in the South, where African Americans were concentrated. It was named for the dark soil in the region. The Black Belt was a center of African American culture and politics, and was a key battleground in the Civil Rights Movement.

5. The "Jim Crow" laws were a set of laws and customs that segregated African Americans from white Americans. They were named after a character in a minstrel show. The laws were used to discriminate against African Americans in all aspects of life, including education, employment, and housing.

6. The "Redeemers" refers to white Southerners who sought to regain power after the Civil War. They used violence, intimidation, and political maneuvering to maintain white supremacy. They were instrumental in the creation of the "Jim Crow" laws and the suppression of African American voting rights.

7. The "New South" refers to the period of white supremacy and segregation in the South after the Civil War. It was characterized by economic development, industrialization, and the rise of the cotton gin. The New South was a center of African American culture and politics, and was a key battleground in the Civil Rights Movement.

8. The "Old South" refers to the period of white supremacy and segregation in the South before the Civil War. It was characterized by agriculture, plantations, and the institution of slavery. The Old South was a center of African American culture and politics, and was a key battleground in the Civil Rights Movement.

9. The "New Negro" refers to a group of African Americans who were instrumental in the development of African American culture and politics in the early 20th century. They were seen as a bridge between the rural South and the urban North, and were instrumental in the development of African American culture and politics.

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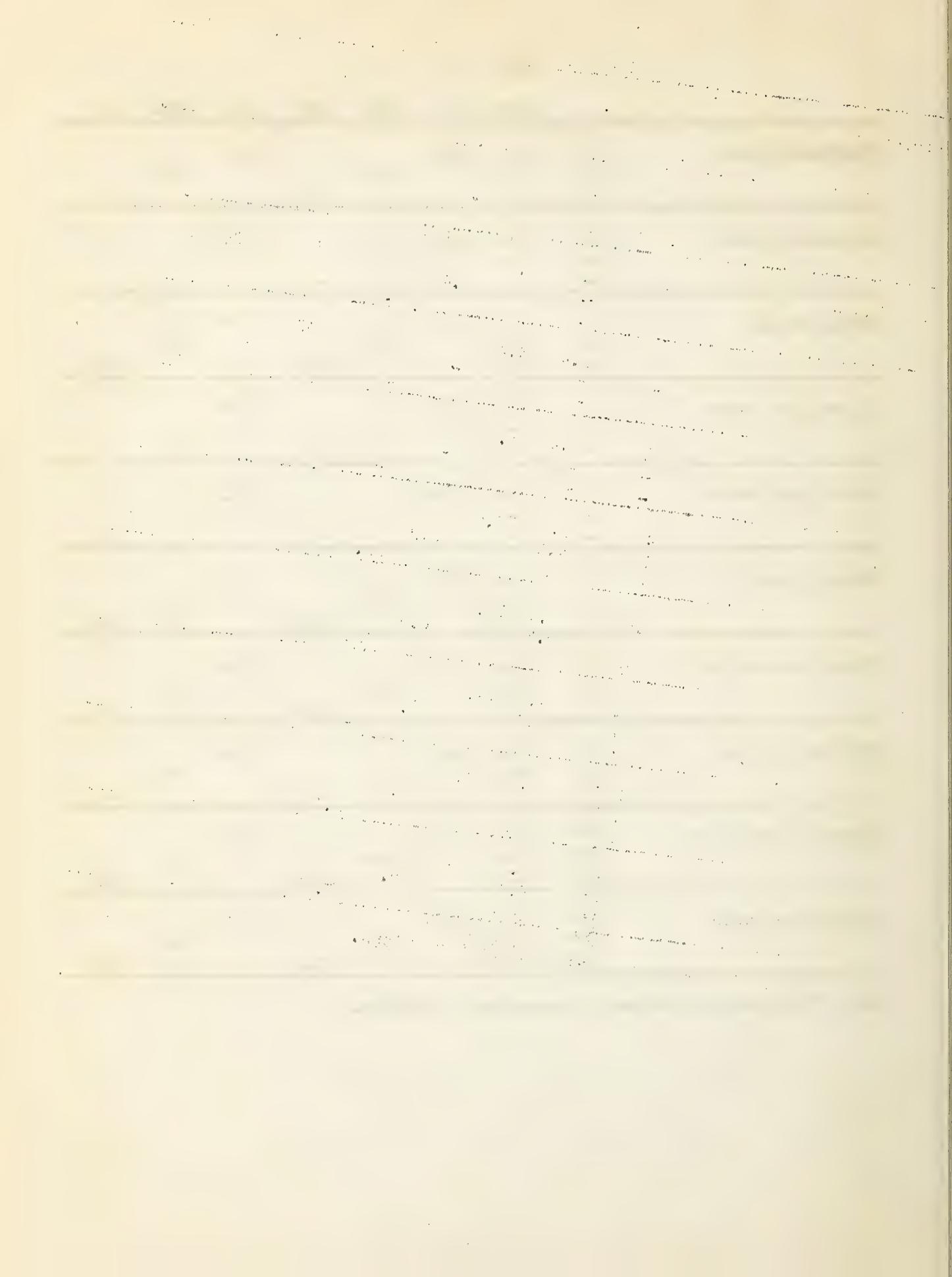
STATUS OF SNOW COVER AS OF MARCH FIRST (Con't.)

Summary of Snow Survey Data
by Tributary Drainages as of about March First

Tributary Drainage	Number of snow courses averaged	Average Water Depth in Snow Cover (Inches)			1940 Snow Water Depth (In.) expressed as % of that in 1939 1938 1937			
		1940	1939	1938	1937	1939	1938	1937
Owyhee River	12	7.2	7.8			92		
	12	7.2		6.4			112	
	12	7.2			9.0			80
Malheur River	2	5.8	4.7			123		
	2	5.8		4.7			123	
	2	5.8			5.4			107
Burnt River	2	6.8	7.2			94		
	1	5.4		6.7			81	
	1	5.4			9.3			58
Powder River	5	12.7	13.5			94		
	2	13.1		12.8			102	
	1	13.0			10.2			127
Grande Ronde River	3	13.1	21.2			62		
	1	18.0		19.6			92	
	-	-		-		-		-
Walla Walla River	1	18.1	34.6			52		
	-	-		-			-	
	-	-		-		-		-
Umatilla River	4	9.9	18.2			54		
	2	6.6		5.9			112	
	-	-		-				-
John Day River	7	6.1	9.3			66		
	5	6.1		8.0			76	
	5	6.1			10.3			59
Crooked River	2	5.5	7.6			72		
	2	5.5		7.4			74	
	1	8.0			13.6			59
Sandy River	2	18.6	38.5			48		
	2	18.6		27.8			67	
	-	-		-				-

		1940	1939	1938	1937	1939	1938	1937
Clackamas River	2	6.7	16.4			41		
	2	6.7		11.6			58	
	-	-		-	-		-	
Willamette River	1	9.6	37.0			26		
	-	-		-	-		-	
	-	-		-	-		-	
Harney Basin	5	4.2	5.8			72		
	4	4.5		5.4			83	
	4	4.5		7.3			62	
Silver Lake Basin	1	1.4	4.4			32		
	-	-		-	-		-	
	-	-		-	-		-	
Abert Lake Basin	1	6.0	5.4			111		
	-	-		-	-		-	
	-	-		-	-		-	
Umpqua River	4	5.5	17.8			31		
	1	9.6		18.2			53	
	1	9.6		21.2			45	
Upper Rogue River	10	7.9	15.2			52		
	8	9.5		16.9			56	
	7	8.8		20.0			44	
Applegate River	1	14.3	14.5			99		
	1	14.3		16.7			86	
	-	-		-	-		-	
Klamath Lake Basin	20*	5.7	9.5			60		
	18*	6.2		10.8			57	
	15*	4.9		11.4			43	
Goose Lake Basin	3*	4.0	6.8			59		
	2*	4.4		9.6			46	
	1*	3.8		7.2			53	

Note: *Including Copco water measurement stations.



TRIBUTARY BASINS		LOCATION		Elev.		Date		About March 1, 1940		SIGHT COVER MEASUREMENTS		AVERAGE WATER DEPTH (INCHES)	
(Primary & Secondary & Snow Courses)		Oregon Number		Sec. Twp. Range		Avg.		Avg.		One Month		One Year	
								Snow		Water		Two Years	
								Depth		Depth		Three Years	
								(In.)		(In.)		Years	
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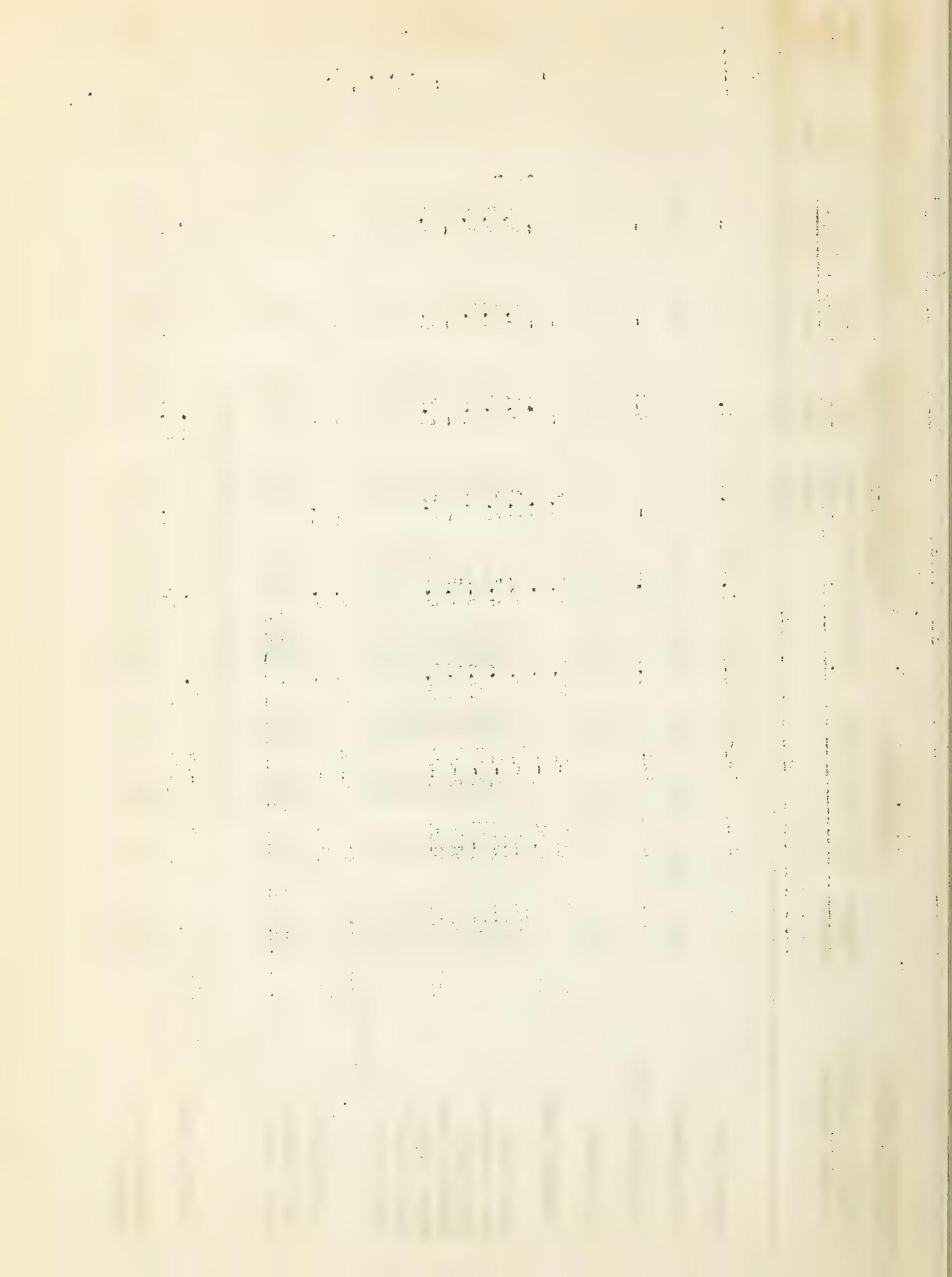
MALHEUR RIVER		BURNT RIVER	
Blue Mountain Spring	133	21	15S
Crane Prairie	137	24	16S
Lake Creek	136	10	16S
Rock Spring	134	23	18S
Stinking Water	135	6	21S
			37E
			35E
			34E
			33½E
			32E
			31E
			30E
			29E
			28E
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TRIBUTARY BASINS (Primary & Secondary & Snow Courses)	LOCATION				SNOW COVER MEASUREMENTS							AVERAGE WATER DEPTH (INCHES)		
	Oregon Number	Sec.	Twp.	Range	Elev.	About March 1, 1940		Avg. Water Depth (In.)	One Month Ago (In.)	One Year Ago (In.)	Two Years Ago (In.)	Three Years Ago (In.)		
						Date	Avg. Snow Depth (In.)							
Gold Center	249	21	9S	36E	5340	3-1	31.7	10.4	3.9	12.6	-	-	-	-
Izee Summit	964	28	16S	29E	5293	2-27	19.6	5.2	1.0	9.1	6.7	8.3	-	-
Starr Ridge	247	20	15S	31E	5156	2-27	10.9	3.2	1.1	5.6	3.3	7.3	-	-
Starr Ridge *	247B	20	15S	31E	5150	2-27	14.1	3.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Mountain Summit	141	6	12S	36E	5098	2-29	20.9	5.4	1.8	9.2	6.7	9.3	-	-
Beech Creek Summit	246A	4	12S	30E	4800	2-27	12.0	4.5	2.4	7.6	6.9	10.7	-	-
Schoolmarm	248	28	4S	34E	4775	2-29	7.6	2.1	0.9	7.3	-	-	-	-
DESCHUTES RIVER														
Ochoco Meadows	341	21	13S	20E	5200	2-27	29.7	8.0	1.8	9.6	10.0	13.6	-	-
Marks Creek	344	25	12S	19E	4540	2-26	10.9	3.1	2.1	5.6	4.8	-	-	-
SANDY RIVER														
Phlox Point - Mt. Hood	452	6	3S	9E	5600	3-1	81.5	29.6	9.7	54.7	42.8	-	-	-
Still Creek	451	25	3S	8½E	3700	3-1	21.7	7.6	3.0	22.4	12.8	-	-	-
CLACKAMAS RIVER														
Peavine Ridge	591	14&15	6S	7E	3500	3-5	20.3	7.6	3.2	19.2	13.0	-	-	-
Clackamas Lake	592	35	5S	8½E	3400	2-29	16.8	5.8	1.8	13.7	10.2	-	-	-
WILLAMETTE RIVER														
Champion	522	12	23S	1E	4500	2-29	30.0	9.6	1.7	37.0	-	-	-	-

Note: * Relocation of course 247, which will be discontinued.

	I N T E R I O R				D R A I N A G E					-
	25&26	29S	13E	4900	2-16	6.7	1.4	1.0	4.4	-
SILVER LAKE										
Silver Creek	942									
CHEWAUCAN RIVER										
Mill Creek	922	1	34S	17E	6200	3-4	23.0	6.0	-	
HARNEY BASIN										
Deer Creek	973	17	36S	26E	6670	3-1	20.7	6.1	1.9	-
Hart Mountain	971	1	36S	25E	6350	3-4	8.9	2.8	1.2	-
Izee Summit	964	28	16S	29E	5293	2-27	19.6	5.2	1.0	8.3
Idylwild Camp	961A	33	20S	31E	5200	3-1	13.6	4.3	2.8	5.7
Starr Ridge	247	20	15S	31E	5156	2-27	10.9	3.2	1.1	7.3
Starr Ridge*	247B	20	15S	31E	5150	2-27	14.1	3.8	-	-
Rock Spring	134	23	18S	32E	5100	2-29	16.7	5.4	5.8	5.5

Note* See Page 10.



TRIBUTARY BASINS	LOCATION						AVERAGE WATER DEPTH (INCHES)					
	Oregon Number	Sec.	Twp.	Range	Elev.	Date	SNOW COVER MEASUREMENTS		One Year ago	Two Years ago	Three Years ago	
(Primary & Secondary & Snow Courses)							Avg. Snow Depth (In.)	Water Depth (In.)	(2-1-40)	(3-1-39)	(3-1-38)	(3-1-37)
Goolaway Mountain	7215	30	32S	3W	6800	3-5	42.0	14.3	4.0	14.5	16.7	-
Goolaway Gap	726	32	32S	3W	6018	3-1	105.1	38.0	20.5	34.0	41.6	37.8
ROGUE RIVER												
Wagner Butte	7213	1	40S	1W	6000	3-5	42.0	14.3	4.0	14.5	16.7	-
Annie Spring	831	19	31S	6E	4900	3-1	105.1	38.0	20.5	34.0	41.6	37.8
Billie Creek Divide	722	17	36S	5E	4865	3-4	32.0	10.8	3.7	27.8	18.4	27.4
Hyatt Prairie Reservoir	723	15	39S	3E	4865	3-1	11.6	4.5	0.0	11.9	12.6	15.0
Fish Lake	725	3	37S	4E	4630	2-25	10.6	2.8	0.0	17.1	11.6	17.2
Siskiyou Summit	728	17	40S	2E	4400	2-29	10.6	3.0	0.1	6.6	11.3	14.5
Althouse	7216	17	41S	7W	3730	2-27	12.7	2.9	0.0	-	-	-
Goolaway Mountain	7215	30	32S	3W	3720	3-1	5.2	2.1	0.0	10.9	-	-
Silver Burn	7219	30	30S	4E	3500	3-1	6.8	2.5	0.0	15.7	16.1	16.3
South Fork Canal	7218	12	33S	3E	3000	2-27	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.0	6.8	11.6
Goolaway Gap	726	32	32S	3W			1.5	0.6	0.0	4.9	-	-
KLAMATH LAKE BASIN												
Summer Rim	841	15	33S	16E	7200	3-2	48.0	12.6	-	9.2	15.2	-
Annie Spring	831	19	31S	6E	6018	3-1	105.1	38.0	20.5	34.0	41.6	37.8
Billie Creek Divide	722	17	36S	5E	6000	2-29	32.0	10.8	3.7	27.8	18.4	27.4
Strawberry	837	4	40S	16E	5600	2-29	17.7	5.0	2.4	8.7	8.8	-
Quartz Mountain 2/	836	33	37S	16E	5504	2-29	11.0	3.8	0.0	6.9	10.5	7.2
Sun Mountain	836	22	32S	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ E	5350	2-27	62.5	21.0	10.2	22.9	24.4	-
Quartz Mountain	811	2	38S	16E	5320	2-29	8.0	3.1	Trace	4.8	-	-
Crowder Flat (California)	30	47N	11E	5200	2-29	Trace	1.5	3.6	-	-	-	-
Lake of the Woods No. 1	835	11	37S	5E	4960	2-29	10.2	2.8	0.6	9.7	10.2	9.4
Hyatt Prairie Reservoir	723	15	39S	3E	4900	3-4	11.6	4.5	0.0	11.9	12.6	15.0

TRIBUTARY BASINS

(Primary & Secondary
& Snow Courses)

LOCATION

Oregon
Number

SNOW COVER MEASUREMENTS

Sec. Twp. Range
Elev.

AVERAGE WATER DEPTH (INCHES)

About March 1, 1940
Avg. Avg.
Snow Water One
Depth Depth Month Year
(In.) (In.) (In.) (In.) (In.)

Richardson Ranch	2/	834	22	35S	14E	4800	2-29	0.0	0.0	2.1	3.2	4.7
Chemult No. 1		21	27S	8E	4760	2-29	23.2	8.0	5.5	8.7	12.5	10.5
Yamsey	2/	19	30S	11E	4600	2-29	0.0	0.0	1.9	3.0	8.4	
Kirk	2/	1	33S	7E	4533	2-29	0.0	0.0	1.8	8.5	7.0	9.5
Beatty	2/	22	36S	12E	4300	2-29	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5
Crystal	2/	26	34S	6E	4200	2-29	14.0	5.2	2.2	9.0	6.5	10.5
Pelican	2/	10	36S	6E	4200	2-29	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.9	4.0	7.0
Chiloquin	2/	34	34S	7E	4187	2-29	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.2	4.4	4.0
Fort Klamath	2/	22	33S	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ E	4150	2-29	0.0	0.0	1.8	6.1	8.6	8.2
Rocky Point	2/	26	35S	6E	4150	2-29	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.8	4.2	9.2

GOOSE LAKE BASIN

Strawberry
Quartz Mountain

837

33

811

4

37S

2

40S

16E

16E

5600

5504

5320

2-29

11.0

8.0

17.7

5.0

3.8

3.1

2.4

0.0

Trace

8.7

6.9

4.8

8.8

10.5

7.2

-

